

NTU Observatory on Taiwan's National Health Insurance

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BACKGROUND

Internet has become a major source of information exchange. More and more health policy researchers and policy makers setup web-based platforms which provide evidence-based information and effective communication among stakeholders. Taiwan's National Health Insurance (NHI) is facing the challenges of the third wave reforms to improve the performance of health system. It appears that there currently lacks an informative platform for effective communications and exchange of accurate information. In retrospect, how has the NHI endured and adapted to the changing faces and challenges brought upon from multiple sources? Moreover, is it sufficient to sustain the force of growing expectations, rising healthcare costs, population ageing, and political criticisms in the long run? How could it be one of the key players in the process of health care reform leading up to its sustainable future?

MISSION

The Project aims to deliver a comprehensive portrait of Taiwan's NHI development: past, present and future. This project will also collect, create, analyze, and disseminate quality information related to the NHI, and to help and promote evidence-based health care reform in order to solidify its fundamental goal of sustainability. The observatory setup by this project will help to advocate knowledge translation, focusing on bridging knowledge creation with practical application in real world settings.

OBJECTIVES & STRATEGIES

This project will establish a working group for the NHI Observatory, and set up an internet-based information system for the NHI Observatory. We will gather and collect NHI intelligence, generate new evidence-based information regarding the NHI whenever necessary. The project will also publish NHI Observatory communications and reports, as well as organize talks, seminars and workshops on the topic of health care reform. Finally, this project will establish a NHI Reform networking group.

METHODOLOGY

In setting up an accountable knowledge base for the NHI, one of the Project's first tasks is to collect evidence-based information and intelligence from various sources including government reports, scientific literature, internet, domestic and international news archives, etc. Various developmental stages of the NHI are to be described in details in association with the economic and political aspects of the country throughout its development. Its successes and setbacks will be discussed. Principally, this knowledge system will act as a platform for communications related to the NHI at the local, national and international levels. Through modern informatics and updated computer technology, the integrated information will also be made publicly accessible on the world-wide web for instantaneous dissemination.

A Working Group will be established forming the intellectual backbone of this Project. The Group Members will provide professional input, guidance and expertise from different areas throughout the process. Presentations, talks, seminars and workshops will be organized routinely by the working group staff.

New information is to be formulated basing on scientific knowledge and statistical analysis in the form of reports and communications -- to promote better understanding of the policies and informing the public of directions of health care reform, and to enhance the timeliness and accuracy of health information reporting. Relevant topics of investigation include health systems performance and schemes for health care reform under the basis of NHI's fundamental aims.